

36. (Amended) A cell or tissue collection medium, allowing both cytological and molecular methods of analysis of cells or tissues collected therein, wherein the molecular method of analysis comprises either RNA or DNA or protein analysis or the analysis of both RNA and DNA, and wherein the medium is water based and comprises an alcohol, a cross-linking agent and an anti-degradation agent, and wherein the cross-linking agent is an aldehyde comprising about 1% to about 15% of the medium.

37. (Amended) A cell or tissue collection medium, allowing both cytological and molecular methods of analysis of cells or tissues collected therein, wherein the molecular method of analysis comprises either RNA or DNA or protein analysis or the analysis of both RNA and DNA, and wherein the medium is water based and comprises an alcohol, a cross-linking agent and an anti-degradation agent, and wherein the cross-linking agent is an aldehyde comprising about 1% to about 10% of the medium.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration in view of the herewith presented amendments and remarks. The amended claims do not introduce new subject matter, nor do the amendments raise new issues of patentability. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that entry of the amendment places the application into condition for allowance. If the Examiner decides to maintain the rejection of this application, entry of the amendment will reduce the number of issues remaining for appeal.

The amendments made to the claims introduce no new matter. The changes have been made in order to respond to claim objections made by the Examiner. Claims 36-54 were